UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

~~A/49/839~~
S/1995/72
24 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 39
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 23 January 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations at the 3487th meeting of the Security Council on 12 January 1995, on the occasion of the adoption of resolution 970 (1995), and, upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to state the following.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was appalled that the representative of Germany stated that "Serbian nationalism - the ruthless readiness to wage war for more territory - was and continues to be a main cause of this conflict" in the former Yugoslavia.

It is particularly absurd and tendentious that the representative of Germany, a country whose drive for the premature recognition of the secessionist former Yugoslav republics primarily contributed to the outbreak of the civil war in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, should be putting forward such ill-intentioned and malicious untruths.

Instead of preaching about the alleged role that the Serbian people played in the breakup of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Germany would do well to focus on its own grave, well-documented and widely acknowledged responsibility for supporting secessionist tendencies in the former Yugoslavia and striving to recognize the separatist republics for its own self-centred interests.

Contrary to the allegations advanced by the representative of Germany concerning the "Serbian aggression", it is well known that what is happening in some parts of the former Yugoslavia is a civil war, which has been identified as such by both Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin as well as Lord Carrington and many others.

Many world leaders and key decision makers, among others, former United States Secretary of State James Baker, present Secretary of State Warren Christopher as well as the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, have also publicly stated concerning the situation in the former Yugoslavia that Germany bears particular responsibility for the premature recognition of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina which sparked off the civil war.

The notion put forward in the Security Council by the representative of Germany that mutual recognition between all States of the former Yugoslavia at the earliest possible date is an urgent political necessity is also erroneous. Considering that the premature recognition of the former secessionist Yugoslav republics, before the political issues among their constituent nations were resolved, created great bloodshed and atrocities, it would be an act of great political irresponsibility to ask the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to make the same mistake that has been committed by the international community.

The tone and approach of the representative of Germany towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are equally unacceptable, although Germany may have gotten used to employing such a tone in addressing some other countries and former Yugoslav republics.

It goes without saying that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is fully prepared to develop dialogue and cooperation with all countries of the world, including Germany, but it can do so only on the footing of equality and full mutual respect.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.